

HAY URBAN DISTRICT  
REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year 1955.



Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....G.G.Evans, M.R.San.I.,  
M.S.I.A.



Hay Urban District

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1955.

Mr.Chairman,Lady and Gentlemen,  
I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Urban District for the year 1955.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 17/55 (Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical Summary for the year 1955.

Area.....370 acres.  
Population (Census 1951).....1452.  
Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1955).....1450.  
Number of inhabited houses.....503.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Pop
Legitimate	7	12	19	
Illegitimate	1	2	3	
	8	14	22	15.1

Still Births.....One.

Deaths from all causes 20 16 36 24.8

Maternal Deaths.....One.

Deaths under 1 year.....One. Rate per 1000 live births.....45.4

Deaths from Special Causes.  
Infectious Disease.....0.  
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....One.  
Other tuberculous disease.....0.  
Cancer.....Three.

Area.The district of Hay is a small urban area of 370 acres forming part of the County of Breconshire.It is situated in the northern part of the County and adjoins the Counties of Radnorshire and Herefordshire.  
The surrounding district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents.

Population.	Census 1931.....1509
	Census 1951.....1452

1945. 1946. 1947. 1948. 1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955.

1344. 1345. 1361. 1398. 1407. 1455. 1433. 1439. 1448. 1450. 1450.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.  
The number of inhabited houses in the district was 503 giving an average number of 2.8 persons per house.

Hay Urban District

| <u>Births.</u>             | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1946.....                  | 10.....       | 14.....         | 24.....       | 17.7         |
| 1947.....                  | 14.....       | 17.....         | 31.....       | 22.7         |
| 1948.....                  | 6.....        | 10.....         | 16.....       | 11.4         |
| 1949.....                  | 15.....       | 7.....          | 22.....       | 15.6         |
| 1950.....                  | 9.....        | 10.....         | 19.....       | 13.0         |
| 1951.....                  | 14.....       | 13.....         | 27.....       | 18.8         |
| 1952.....                  | 8.....        | 9.....          | 17.....       | 11.8         |
| 1953.....                  | 17.....       | 14.....         | 31.....       | 21.4         |
| 1954.....                  | 3.....        | 8.....          | 11.....       | 7.6          |
| 1955.....                  | 8.....        | 14.....         | 22.....       | 15.1         |
| England and Wale,1955..... |               |                 |               | 15.0         |

The birthrate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales but was much lower than the deathrate.

Deaths.After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table:-

|                             | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1946.....                   | 12.....       | 8.....          | 20.....       | 14.7         |
| 1947.....                   | 10.....       | 12.....         | 22.....       | 16.0         |
| 1948.....                   | 11.....       | 12.....         | 23.....       | 16.4         |
| 1949.....                   | 13.....       | 15.....         | 28.....       | 19.9         |
| 1950.....                   | 8.....        | 16.....         | 24.....       | 16.5         |
| 1951.....                   | 9.....        | 15.....         | 24.....       | 16.7         |
| 1952.....                   | 11.....       | 10.....         | 21.....       | 14.6         |
| 1953.....                   | 12.....       | 9.....          | 21.....       | 14.5         |
| 1954.....                   | 16.....       | 10.....         | 26.....       | 17.2         |
| 1955.....                   | 20.....       | 16.....         | 36.....       | 24.8         |
| England and Wales,1955..... |               |                 |               | 11.7         |

It will be observed that the deathrate for 1955,was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales,and was also higher than the birthrate for the district.

| <u>Still Births.</u>        | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1946.....                   | 0.....        | 0.....          | 0.....        | 0.           |
| 1947.....                   | 0.....        | 0.....          | 0.....        | 0.           |
| 1948.....                   | 0.....        | 0.....          | 0.....        | 0.           |
| 1949.....                   | 0.....        | 2.....          | 2.....        | 1.4          |
| 1950.....                   | 2.....        | 0.....          | 2.....        | 1.3          |
| 1951.....                   | 0.....        | 0.....          | 0.....        | 0.           |
| 1952.....                   | 0.....        | 0.....          | 0.....        | 0.           |
| 1953.....                   | 0.....        | 0.....          | 0.....        | 0.           |
| 1954.....                   | 1.....        | 0.....          | 1.....        | 83.3         |
| 1955.....                   | 1.....        | 0.....          | 1.....        | 45.4         |
| England and Wales,1955..... |               |                 |               | 23.1         |

The still birthrate was higher than that of the average of the whole of England and Wales.The rate is calculated per 1000 live births and still births.



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Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

|                              | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Rate.</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1946.....                    | 1.....        | 0.....          | 1.....        | 41.0         |
| 1947.....                    | 0.....        | 0.....          | 0.....        | 0.           |
| 1948.....                    | 0.....        | 0.....          | 0.....        | 0.           |
| 1949.....                    | 1.....        | 1.....          | 2.....        | 90.0         |
| 1950.....                    | 0.....        | 0.....          | 0.....        | 0.           |
| 1951.....                    | 1.....        | 0.....          | 1.....        | 37.0         |
| 1952.....                    | 1.....        | 0.....          | 1.....        | 58.8         |
| 1953.....                    | 0.....        | 1.....          | 1.....        | 32.8         |
| 1954.....                    | 0.....        | 0.....          | 0.....        | 0.           |
| 1955.....                    | 1.....        | 0.....          | 1.....        | 45.4         |
| England and Wales, 1955..... |               |                 |               | 24.9         |

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....20. Females.....16

| <u>Cause.</u>                           | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory.....          | 1.....        | 0.              |
| Other malignant neoplasms.....          | 1.....        | 2.              |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system..... | 5.....        | 1.              |
| Diabetes.....                           | 0.....        | 1.              |
| Coronary Disease.....                   | 1.....        | 0.              |
| Other heart disease.....                | 5.....        | 5.              |
| Other circulatory disease.....          | 2.....        | 0.              |
| Pneumonia.....                          | 1.....        | 0.              |
| Nephritis.....                          | 0.....        | 1.              |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....    | 0.....        | 1.              |
| Congenital malformations.....           | 1.....        | 0.              |
| Other diseases.....                     | 3.....        | 5.              |

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Mortuary and Post Mortem Facilities. During the year, through the kind cooperation of the County Welfare Committee, a room at Cockcroft House was adapted and fully equipped for use as a mortuary. Post mortem examinations can also be performed in the same building. Hay R.D.C. and Painscastle R.D.C. also use this building for the same purposes.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents of the district was three.

Maternal Mortality. There was one death during the year which could be attributed to childbirth

## SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. The same arrangements existed during the year as in previous years. Mr. G. Evans acted as your Sanitary Inspector, and was employed in a similar capacity by the Rural District of Hay and Painscastle.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed at the Public Health Laboratories at Cardiff and Hereford.

All the milk testing was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Nursing and other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administers the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by Hereford Hospital and Brecon War Memorial Hospital. Merthyr Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital received cases of infectious disease.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

### SECTION 3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the district are taken from lowland springs. Up to the 22nd. July there was a free flow of water to the town but on this date it was necessary to restrict the supply by turning off the water at night from 10pm. to 7am. On the 29th. July the supply was further restricted to give water only from 7am. to 10am. and 3pm. to 6pm. and on 25th. August it was further reduced to give a two hour supply from 7am. to 8am. and from 4pm. to 5pm. and this restriction continued until 14th. October when it was necessary to engage the services of the Fire Brigade to pump water into the storage reservoir and this pumping continued for three days. From the date of this pumping the water remained on at 2 hours per day until 12th. November and at this date the supply was improved to give water from 7am. to 10pm. with night restrictions. On the 5th. December it was found necessary to further restrict and a supply of only 6 hours per day was given - 7am. to 10am. and from 3pm. to 6pm. On the 16th. December a full daily supply with night restrictions between 10pm. to 7am. was given and this continued until 31st. December.

Two samples were taken from Llanwathan supply, the second sample was unsatisfactory and following this result all the collecting chambers were cleaned out.

Three samples were taken from the Hay Common supply and on the result of the third sample the filter beds were skimmed and the sand washed and relaid. Advantage of the drought to thoroughly clean out the storage reservoir and this work was completed in September.

Number of samples taken.....5.  
 Number of samples unsatisfactory.....3.  
 Number of samples satisfactory.....2.

Progress on the Llanbwchllyn Lake scheme is still proceeding very slowly.

Number of visits of inspection by Sanitary Inspector.....5.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but it is discharged direct into the river Wye. During the year the Surveyor made progress with a scheme for a sewage disposal works, and the report was submitted to the Wye River Board.

During the year authority was given to the owners of four bungalows to lay a drain for the purpose of connecting their properties to the town sewer and the condition that the owners pay the total cost thereof and on completion it was taken over as a public sewer.

Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector in connection with drainage work.....7.



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Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the twice weekly collection and disposal of house refuse. This work is done by the Council Employees under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector. The refuse is then disposed of by controlled tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Number of complaints received.....        | 29. |
| Number of complaints investigated.....    | 29. |
| Number of premises inspected.....         | 29. |
| Number of premises revisited.....         | 29. |
| Number of preliminary notices served..... | 1.  |
| Number of Statutory Notices served.....   | 0.  |

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector..... | 38. |
|--|-----|

Shops.

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Number of inspections made..... | 29. |
|---------------------------------|-----|

Factories.

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of factories on register..... | 17. |
| Number of inspections made.....      | 30. |
| Number of defects found.....         | 11. |
| Number of defects remedied.....      | 11. |

Camping Sites. There is no licensed camping site in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin are treated with D.D.T. Preparations.

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Number of premises inspected..... | 0. |
|-----------------------------------|----|

Rodent Control. One full time rodent operative is engaged by the Council. This same operative is also engaged by the Hay Rural District Council. This operative worked under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Number of premises inspected during the year.....    | 277. |
| Number of premises found infested.....               | 41.  |
| Number of premises treated by rodent operative.....  | 16.  |
| Number of premises treated by occupier.....          | 25.  |
| Number of dead rats recovered.....                   | 44.  |
| Estimated number of rats killed during the year..... | 242. |

In April of the year, 6 manholes and 11 road gullies were treated with negative results.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

#### SECTION 4. HOUSING.

During the year no houses were erected by the Council nor by private enterprise.

There are 40 applicants on the Council's waiting list for new houses and of these 32 are living in houses and 8 in rooms. Of the applicants living in houses, 20 are in houses which should be considered for demolition. Of those living in rooms, such houses are in good condition or in such as could easily be brought up to a good standard.

20 applicants could be housed in two-bedroom type houses and nineteen could be housed in three-bedroom type and one four-bedroom type is required.

Two applications for a Grant under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 were received. Grant was approved and work was put in hand in one case. The second application did not qualify for Grant because the applicant had started to carry out the improvements before the proposals were approved by you.

Number of housing inspections made.....205.

A report under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was submitted to you in July and it was Resolved that the following information be forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

1. The Council estimate that the number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 is 118.

2. A period of five years is considered to be necessary for securing the demolition of these houses.

3. The number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the Council or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order is 45.

4. The number of such houses to be demolished in the five years is 45.

5. The number of houses to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 is 73.

No other report was submitted under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, Article 31.

#### SECTION 5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk. Since 1st. October 1949 local authorities were left with the licensing and control of distributors or dealers.

Number of dealers registered.....1.  
There are no dairies registered in your district.

Number of samples taken from dealers (T.T.).....2.  
Satisfactory.....1.  
Unsatisfactory.....1.

There are 5 producer/Retailers delivering milk in your district and one of these holds a licence to sell designated milk known as tuberculin tested and the other 4 sell undesignated milk.

Number of samples from producer/retailers.....11.  
Satisfactory.....8.  
Unsatisfactory.....3.

The result of these samples was sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries at Brecon and Hereford.



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Meat. Three slaughterhouses are registered in the district.

All condemned meat is collected by a Hereford firm who deals in waste food products.

All other condemned foods are disposed of in the Council's refuse tip, after spraying with fluorescent stain.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or part.

|  | Cattle<br>excluding<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|--|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| Number killed (if known)   |                             |      |        |                       |      |        |
| Number inspected   | 305                         | 0    | 105    | 1748                  | 172  | -      |
| <u>All diseases except<br/>Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u>   |                             |      |        |                       |      |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned  | 0                           | 0    | 0      | 1                     | 0    | -      |
| Carcasses of which some part<br>or organ was condemned   | 11                          | 0    | 0      | 2                     | 3    | -      |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>disease other than<br>tuberculosis & cysticerci | 3.6                         | -    | -      | .17                   | 1.16 | -      |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u>   |                             |      |        |                       |      |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned  | 0                           | 0    | 0      | 0                     | 0    | -      |
| Carcasses of which some part<br>or organ was condemned   | 0                           | 0    | 0      | 0                     | 0    | -      |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>tuberculosis                                    | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -    | -      |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u>   |                             |      |        |                       |      |        |
| Carcasses of which some part<br>or organ was condemned   | 0                           | 0    | 0      | 0                     | 0    | 0      |
| Carcasses submitted to<br>treatment by refrigeration   | 0                           | 0    | 0      | 0                     | 0    | 0      |
| Generalised and totally<br>condemned   | 0                           | 0    | 0      | 0                     | 0    | 0      |

Meat Condemned. Cattle....147 lbs. Other animals.....64 lbs.

Other Foods Condemned. Tins.....195  
Pounds weight.....167

Other Foods. There are 27 shops dealing in foods in your district and may be tabulated as follows;

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Greengrocer.....                | 1.  |
| Grocers.....                    | 11. |
| Grocer/Bakers.....              | 2.  |
| Grocers/Bakers/Caterers.....    | 1.  |
| Grocer/Caterers.....            | 2.  |
| Fishmongers/Greengrocers.....   | 2.  |
| Greengrocers/Confectioners..... | 2.  |
| Confectioners/Tobacconists..... | 2.  |
| Restaurants.....                | 2.  |
| Fish and Chip Shops.....        | 2.  |

Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses).

There are 7 such premises in your district.

Number of inspections made.....17.

No special examination of a shop's stock or consignment of food has been found necessary and since there is one wholesale grocer in the district, the total quantity of food condemned means that such food is not distributed to the shops in the district or to the contiguous area.

Ice-Cream Premises.

There are 5 retailers of ice cream in your district, three of these sell pre-packed ice cream, one is a producer/retailer, and one makes his product by using the cold mix.

No samples were submitted for analysis during the year.

Number of inspections made.....20.

Fried Fish Shoos.

There ~~is only one~~ <sup>are two</sup> such premises in the district.

Number of inspections made.....14.

SECTION 6. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year:-

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Acute Primary Pneumonia..... | 1 case.  |
| Measles.....                 | 3 cases. |
| Whooping Cough.....          | 9 cases. |

All the above cases were nursed at home and no deaths were caused as a result of these infectious diseases.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of cases on the register at commencement of year..... | 14. |
| Number of fresh cases added during the year.....             | 4.  |
| Number of cases removed due to death.....                    | 1.  |
| Number of cases removed as recovered.....                    | 0.  |
| Number of cases removed as left district.....                | 0.  |
| Number of cases left on register at end of year.....         | 17. |

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The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:-

|              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <u>1945.</u> | <u>1946.</u> | <u>1947.</u> | <u>1948.</u> | <u>1949.</u> | <u>1950.</u> | <u>1951.</u> | <u>1952.</u> | <u>1953.</u> | <u>1954.</u> | <u>1955.</u> |
| 4.           | 3.           | 0.           | 6.           | 0.           | 3.           | 6.           | 0.           | 3.           | 5.           | 4.           |

Diphtheria. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. During the first half of 1955, however, it is disturbing to note that only 34.1% of the estimated number of children reaching the age of one year during this period received this protection. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks, and there have been several sharp reminders of this possibility during the year under review.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health



